

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 8–10, 12, 15, and 19-21 are currently amended; claims 5, 11, and 17 are canceled; and claims 2-4, 7, 13, 14, 16, and 18 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 9, 15, and 19-21 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the present Response. Applicant has amended the claims to clarify that which is claimed by Applicant. Support for all of the claim amendments may be found in the Specification at least in the Detailed Description of the Invention, pages 4- 13.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101

Claim 19 was rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In reply thereto, claim 19 is currently amended as indicated in the claim amendments submitted herewith to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 101. Namely, claim 19 now includes recitations of “[A] computer-readable medium having executable instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising”, as well as “instructions to identify”, “instructions to establish”, and “instructions to conduct”. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 clearly recites statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 101.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being disclosed by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter, AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the alleged AAPA (not admitted as prior art by Applicant), Applicant respectfully submits that there is no disclosure in the alleged AAPA, page 2 of the original Specification, of that which is asserted by the Office Action of being disclosed. For instance, there is no disclosure of the claimed reciprocity rule. Furthermore, there is no disclosure of the claimed reciprocity rule governing a communications session that is established by an originator (See claims 1, 19, and 21), reciprocity rule governing a communications session that is established by an originator device (See claim 15), and reciprocity rule governing a communications session that is received from an originator (See claim 20).

Accordingly, even if the disclosure cited in the Background section of Applicant's Specification were admitted prior art (again, not admitted by Applicant) the disclosure cited therein does not render Applicant's claims obvious. Again, the alleged AAPA fails to disclose or suggest: (1) the claimed reciprocity rule, (2) the claimed reciprocity rule governing a communications session that is established by an originator, (3) the claimed reciprocity rule governing a communications session that is established by an originator device, and (4) the claimed reciprocity rule governing a communications session that is received from an originator.

Also, Applicant respectfully submits that the alleged AAPA does not disclose or suggest the claimed reciprocity rule of claim 1, wherein the reciprocity rule prevents the participant from sending a response message to the originator. Applicant also submits that claims 9, 15, and 19-21 are worded similar to claim 1. Thus, the alleged AAPA does not disclose the particular reciprocity rules disclosed therein.

Therefore, it is clear that the alleged AAPA does not disclose or suggest that which is claimed in claims 1, 9, 15, and 19-21. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the alleged AAPA does not disclose or suggest the claimed reciprocity rule that governs a communication session. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16, and 18 depend from claims 1, 9, 15. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, and 18-21 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, and 18-21. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

January 18, 2006
Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rand P. Calhoun", written over a horizontal line.

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